

Message Text

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S E C R E T MADRID 5409

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR SP US MARR

SUBJ: NEGOTIATIONS ON RENEWAL OF SPAIN-US AGREEMENT
OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF SEPT 19, MFA SUBDIRECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (PERINAT) ALLUDED TO TIMING OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR AFC RENEWAL. IT WAS APPARENT, HE SAID, THAT US ADMINISTRATION DID NOT THINK TIME WAS YET RIPE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS AND HE INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF THIS POSITION. HE HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE STARTED SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE TO ALLOW TIME TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY PROVISIONS AND AVOID PRESENTATION OF "FAITS ACCOMPLIS" AS TERM OF EXISTING AGREEMENT ENDED.

2. PERINAT NOTED THAT GOS WOULD BE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE DURING NEGOTIATIONS FROM SPANISH PUBLIC AND PRESS WHO CONSIDERED EXISTING DEFENSE COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS HEAVILY CONCESSIONAL TO US WITHOUT CORRESPONDING BENEFITS TO SPAIN. THE NEXT AGREEMENT, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE TO BE SET IN A NEW FRAMEWORK. ASKED WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT, PERINAT STATED IT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SPAIN'S SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. IN THIS REGARD, HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER SOMETHING SUCH AS THE JOINT DECLARATION OF 1963. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, HE INDICATED, TO SUBMIT THE NEXT AGREEMENT FOR ENDORSEMENT BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. PERINAT SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT

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THE ROLE OF THE SPANISH PRESS WHICH, HE EMPHASIZED, HAD

FAR MORE LEEWAY IN CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT, EXCEPT FOR LIMITED AREAS, THAN FOREIGN OBSERVERS BELIEVED. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT GOS OF COURSE WAS AWARE OF THE PRESSURES EXERTED ON ADMINISTRATION BY THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE PRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN.

3. FOLLOWING EMBOFF'S COMMENT ALONG THE SAME LINE, PERINAT SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT SPANISH-U.S. DEFENSE COOPERATION SERVED THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S., SPAIN AND WEST EUROPE. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, IT WAS NECESARY TO FIND A FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES WHICH WOULD PERMIT SUCH COOPERATION TO CONTINUE.
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